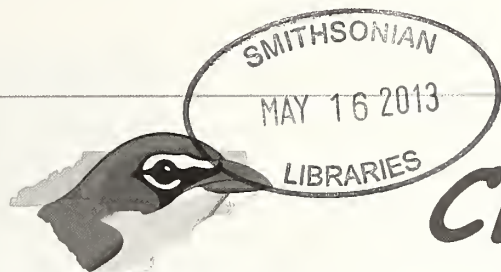


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CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 59

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Number 3

It's Not Even Summer... But Start Thinking Fall! CBC Fall Meeting - Litchfield Beach, SC

Don Faulkner

We are heading back to the South Carolina coast for the September meeting. The last time we were on the SC coast (Beaufort, September 2011), we had a record 203 bird species. That would be a great target to shoot for this fall!

The dates for our meeting are Friday and Saturday, September 27th and 28th. Our headquarters are located at the Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort at 14276 Oceans Highway, Pawley's Island, SC 29585. Call 877-854-6358 for reservations. Litchfield lies half-way between Georgetown and Myrtle Beach, SC.

The accommodations at the hotel, both hotel rooms and meeting rooms, are excellent. The hotel rooms are Summerhouse Scenic Suites and have two Queen beds, a living area with a full kitchen, and all the amenities at a cost of \$89.10 plus taxes. Each room has a balcony with either a pool or lake view. We always try to ensure that we have the hotel's lowest cost for the rooms when setting up a CBC meeting. However, since this hotel is in a golfing area, they cannot guarantee that they will not have some specials available between now and September. If you are looking for a bargain, you can check the hotel website or call the front desk.

The hotel breakfast buffet opens at 6 a.m. and has about everything imaginable on it. It is a little pricey compared to what we normally have at these meetings

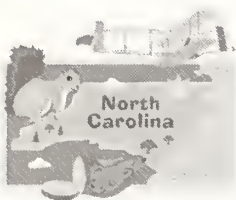
(\$9.95 plus tax and tip) but we do have options. There is a Starbucks on site that opens at 6 a.m. and a breakfast & brunch restaurant across the street (Eggs Up Grill) that also opens at 6 a.m. And if all else fails, you will have a complete kitchen in your room.

The meeting room for Friday is a movie theater with stadium seating, and Saturday night's meeting will be in a ballroom set up for buffet dining. The Saturday buffet is \$25 per person and includes traditional tossed salad, Chicken Francaise, Pasta Primavera, fresh vegetable medley, roasted red potatoes, rolls & butter, coffee, and tea.

The restaurants, places to visit, attractions, and activities in this area of South Carolina are too numerous to list. Over 100 golf courses, killer shopping, dinner theater, fishing, sunbathing, and boating are just a few of the many things to keep non-birding partners busy, or that can be added for an extended visit. More information on these items will be available at registration.

Now to the important part, birding. We are in the heart of coastal birding for South Carolina. Just next door to our hotel lies Huntington Beach State Park, which is one of the choice locations for birding in the Carolinas. As of 2012, the park list stood at 315 species. In addition to HBSP, we have Bull Island, South Litchfield Beach, Myrtle Beach State Park,

(Continued on page 5)



Carolinabirds Turns Sweet Sixteen

Steve Shultz



When asked what changes have affecting birding the most over the past quarter century, several items come to mind. Certainly the improvements in optics make searching for and identifying birds more enjoyable. I suspect telling a young birder toting a low-dispersion-optics spotting scope that you made do with a Bushnell Spacemaster would be akin to explaining that we actually had to get up and walk over to the television to change the channel.

Many might point out that habitat and environmental changes are more significant. Some may lament that continued habitat degradation makes for an uncomfortable future if trends continue, while the more optimistic might point to the Osprey, Bald Eagle, or Peregrine Falcon gliding overhead as an example of what we've done right.

But I suspect that the biggest change to birding over the past twenty-five years is the use of the Internet. The information superhighway certainly includes a lane for birders, and rare bird sightings, site information, arrival dates, and pretty much anything else pertaining to birds and birding can be had at the click of a mouse or the tap of a touchpad.

One of the more useful tools for birders are the mailing lists collectively known as "listserves". Most states have at least one, and larger or heavily birded areas such as California, New Jersey, and Florida have several.

Of course the Carolinas have our very own Carolinabirds, which celebrated its sixteenth anniversary recently. Managed over the years by Will Cook, Carolinabirds links birders from the Carolinas and beyond together at the speed of the Internet.

To see how Carolinabirds has grown since its inception, let's look at some statistics including the total number of subscribers on each anniversary date, geographical location of subscribers, gender, and for Carolinas birders, province.

Year	Subscribers
2012	1,241
2011	1,133
2010	1,033
2009	997
2008	947
2007	787
2006	712
2005	602
2004	570
2003	529
2002	545
2001	506
2000	438
1999	368
1998	262
1997	104
1996	17

*Estimated by use of name

Where We're From	
Australia	1
Belgium	1
Canada	2
Costa Rica	2
France	1
Scotland	1
U.S.A.	1,030
Unknown	203

Who We Are*	
Female	37.20%
Male	62.80%

Carolina Subscribers by Region	
Coast	27.40%
Piedmont	61.40%
Mountains	11.20%

So from humble beginnings in 1996, the Carolinabirds tool has become a daily part of the e-mail inboxes of over twelve hundred birders. An unknown number of folks also follow Carolinabirds on the Internet at birding.aba.org.

So are you one of the "Original 17"? Have you never heard of Carolinabirds until now and want to know more? If you fall into the former group, you probably still enjoy keeping your finger on the pulse of Carolina birding by reading the daily posts. If you are part of the latter group, you might be missing out on a valuable tool that can increase your birding success and enjoyment. Information on how to subscribe and manage your subscription can be found at: <http://people.duke.edu/~cwcook/cbirds.html>

Hope to "see you" and read about your birding adventures on the web! Special thanks to Will Cook for allowing the use of numbers from his "annual report" for this article.



Birder's Book Review

Steve Shultz



The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors

Richard Crossley

ISBN 978-069115-7405, 304 pages, paper flexibound
2013, Princeton University Press, \$29.95

When Richard Crossley's novel approach to bird identification (*The Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds*, ISBN 9780691147789) hit stores in 2011, many birders took a polarized approach. Some loved it while others felt it provided them with little value. In fact, I had rarely seen so much emotion associated with a bird book, usually a subject that causes little debate other than the faithfulness of the plates' color reproduction. Birders who liked it appreciated the chance to see birds as they are often seen in the field, in habitat, under varying lighting conditions, and usually smaller than a rendering in a field guide. Many noted, as does the author, that this book was not intended to be a field guide, but rather an *identification* guide, a tome created to help birders learn what to look for when out in the field, if not a book to be carried along for use in field identification.

I personally like the way that Crossley approaches "armchair identification skill building", and thus eagerly anticipated the release of the follow-up book devoted to raptor identification, *The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*.

Raptors are one of those groups of birds that give even seasoned observers fits. Perched hawks often look fairly similar, and variation within one species may overlap with one or more other species, to the point that raptors are often easier to identify in flight, not something that can be said for many other types of birds.

Hawkwatchers often talk about the "feel" of the bird or the "giss" (a term with a murky past that is most frequently associated as an acronym for General Impression of Shape and Size). Ask a hawkwatcher how they know that speck on the horizon is a Broad-winged Hawk and, often as not, there is not a particular field mark they can point to, but a feel developed over time and by watching a lot of hawks.

The Crossley ID

Guide:

Raptors

won't

make you an instant expert in raptor identification, but it will provide an excellent resource to use in studying these often con-

fusing birds. Crossley continues to use his method of overlaying numerous photos of a particular species on a background photograph of habitat related to that bird. Imagine a hayfield full of Swainson's Hawks of all ages in various lighting and in various poses and you can pretty much describe the pages devoted to this prairie raptor. Each of the thirty-four North American species covered gets this treatment. However, what I especially like about the book are the plates that show similar-looking birds *together*. This is where I feel the book really proves its worth. Find Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks confusing? Check out the twenty-one birds featured on pages 52-53 and then check your guesses with the key on page 264. Want to brush up on aging accipiters? Then pages 46-47 (Sharp-shinned Hawk aging) and pages 50-51 (Cooper's Hawk aging) are for you! Want a quiz on accipiters in flight? Turn to pages 58-59.

If this were not enough, you can also test yourself on "Perched Buteos", "The Widespread Common Raptors", "Hovering Birds", "Southeastern Raptors", "Going Away!", "Sunrise on the East Coast", "Into the Sun", and more. Of course once you've memorized the answers, the quizzes won't be as helpful as they were initially, but by then you will likely have enhanced your raptor identification skills significantly!

The **CROSSLEY**



GUIDE

Raptors

RICHARD CROSSLEY

LENN J. JACOBI

ERIAN S. L. HAN

(Continued on page 5)



Birder's Book Review II

Steve Shultz



The Unfeathered Bird

Katrina van Grouw

ISBN 9780-6911-51342, 304 pages, cloth

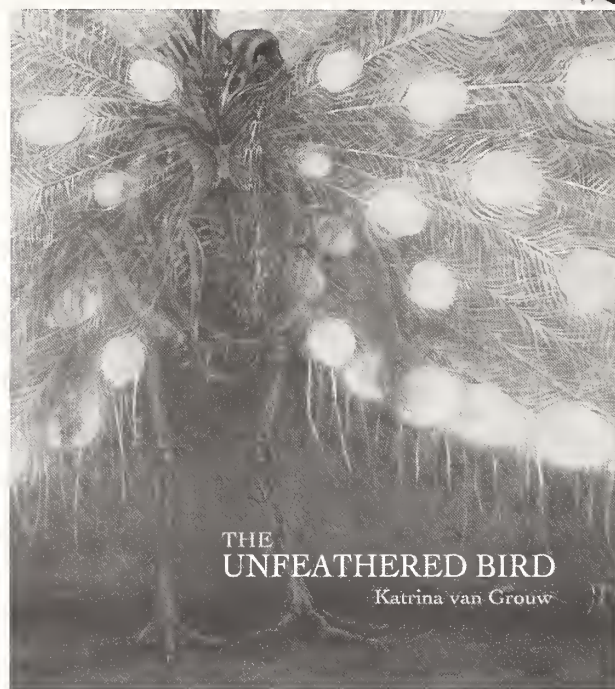
2013, Princeton University Press, \$49.95

The Unfeathered Bird arrived on the stoop the other day in a plain brown wrapper, the type often used to make anonymous the contents within. I must admit I felt somewhat voyeuristic as I settled into the couch and opened the book, noting with satisfaction the crisp sound as the cover turned for the first time to reveal printed pages. Shades drawn to avert prying eyes, I began to leaf through page after page of alluring drawings depicting a variety of lovely creatures in all nature's glory. That is to say sans... everything.

Now before you think that this book that arrived so plainly may be illegal in some municipalities, or at least inappropriate in most, note that there is barely any skin shown at all. Very little skin, and almost no feathers. Really! And of course we are talking birds here! But *The Unfeathered Bird* is unlike pretty much any other bird book that you could bring to mind.

Artist, taxidermist, and former curator of ornithological collections at London's Natural History Museum, Katrina van Grouw offers an unusual and appealing 304-page volume depicting birds in various states of "undress". More than three hundred drawings with accompanying narration lead the reader through what goes on "under the feathers" of some of our favorite avian species. These drawings were made over a span of twenty-five years as van Grouw and her husband prepared bird specimens.

So what is happening under there? How do bird skeletons provide adaptations that allow albatrosses to soar effortlessly on the wing for days at a time, allow auks to fly and dive with similar elegance, or create such superb spearfishers in darters? By deconstructing birds and revealing fine detail of muscles, bones, organs, and other "behind the scenes parts", van Grouw shows us some of the remarkable physiological structures that allow birds to do what they do best. The black and white, pen and ink drawings are both stark and fascinating. A skeletal pet shop parakeet



peers into a mirror, a skeletal loon swims underneath a lily pad, a skeletal storm petrel brushes the water with dangling toes. But not all of the renderings are of bones; no, that would be fairly repetitious after the first hundred pages. What I found most fascinating were the various organs lying randomly across the pages. A duck's tongue. The spiral coiled windpipe of an exotic jungle fowl. A sizable crop. If you've ever wanted to dissect a bird, but did not want to deal with the runny bits or the smell of formaldehyde, this book is for you. All of the information, none of the mess.

Some of the drawings pull at the heartstrings. A Great Auk poses on a museum's wooden stand, for none of us have seen one in the wild. A Dodo skull reminds us of what we've lost, and what we stand to lose if overuse of resources continues. Other pages are more whimsical, a robin leaping into flight with all the appearance of a plucked chicken, that same bird perched on a branch with an earthworm clasped in the bill.

The Unfeathered Bird makes for a solid addition to a birder's library as well as an attractive coffee table centerpiece. Unlike the photo mosaics that frequently inhabit such furniture, van Grouw's work may spark more than passing conversation as your guests explore the inner world of birds.

Litchfield

I'on Swamp, Waccamaw NWR, Samworth NWR and Santee Coastal Reserve WMA, to name just a few.

Some of the species we hope to see include Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Wilson's Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Marbled Godwit, Short-billed Dowitcher, Glossy Ibis, Wood Stork, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Anhinga, Clapper Rail, and Common Ground-Dove.

Registration information, more meeting details, and trip descriptions will be included in the next Newsletter. Come on back to the coast and help us break that 200 bird species count once again!

Online Publications Password

The most recent editions of the Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website. All CBC members will use the same username and password to access these publications. The username is "cbc" and the password is "thech@". This is a membership benefit; please don't share the password with non-members! The password will be changed from time to time, but can always be found in the most recent print edition of the Newsletter.

<http://www.carolinabirdclub.org>

Crossley

Crossley's raptor book differs from the Eastern birds volume in that it weighs significantly less, as one might expect from a book devoted to a single family of birds versus one that aims to cover the entire avifauna of an area. This means that Raptors may not fall into the "I like it, but it is too heavy to carry with me" trap. Though smaller, the book still runs 286 pages. The first 173 include the introduction and the photographic plates, while the remaining pages provide range maps and comments on flight style, size and shape, plumage, geographic variation, molt, migration and status and distribution.

In summary, if you liked the Eastern guide, Raptors should be a natural addition to your library. If you did not like the Eastern guide, give Raptors a try. The treatment of a bird family that is often more easily identified in flight may make you a fan. Next up for Crossley, a look at Western North American birds, and then a hop across the pond for British birds!



Welcome New Members!

The CBC warmly welcomes the following new members.

Sharon Umhoefer
Pinchurst, NC

George & Cindy
Hervey
Greensboro, NC

Ken Goldsmith
Norfolk, VA

David Heavner
Pinnacle, NC

Wendy Kady
Asheville, NC

Juliet Horton
Charleston, SC

Patty Adams
Washington, NC

Jane Wood
Wilson, NC

LynnErla Beegle
Raleigh, NC

Barbara McRae
Franklin, NC

Scott & Pleas Geyer
Charlotte, NC

Christine Voss &
Family
Pine Knoll Shores,
NC

Eric & Eli Feichter
Arden, NC

Steve & Freda
Mitchell
Pendleton, SC

Audrey Booth &
Blair Bowers
Chapel Hill, NC

Barbara Brank
Charlotte, NC

Janice Powell
Statesville, NC

Judy Modell
Durham, NC

Esquire Wright
Gastonia, NC

Debbie Irving
Madison, NC

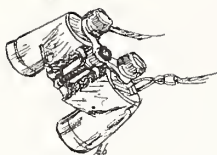
Beth Holly
Asheville, NC

Patricia Gallagher &
Stephen & Phillip
Redmon
Chapel Hill, NC

Deceased
Susan Moore



Lynne Mattocks Lucas



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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Litchfield, SC September 27-28, 2013
Coastal NC, January 24-25 2014

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

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